University of Massachusetts Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Sarah Poissant, Chair
2023 - 2024

Noon, December 13, 2023
Goessman 250
Zoom Meeting:
https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96777999264

Meeting Minutes
21 in Attendance

15 Members of the Graduate Council in Attendance

Black, Joseph	Butler, Caitlyn
Caicedo, Ana	Hess, Traci
Jesse, Alexandra	McGregor, Andrew
Mohammed, Fareed	Paik, Tony
Poissant, Sarah	Ramsey-Musolf, Darrel
Seven, Memnun	Tachtiris, Corine
Trivedi, Kalpen	Urla, Jacqueline
Vandenberg, Laura	

6 Members of the Graduate School in Attendance

Bauer-Clapp, Heidi	Kelder, Nicole
Laramie, Devin	Mellin, Susan
Rathod, Bharat	Woodmansee, Kate

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sarah Poissant called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. Approval of November 8, 2023 meeting minutes

A motion was called to approve the November 8th meeting minutes. There were 11 votes to approve. The motion was passed, and the minutes were approved by the council.

III. Comments by Graduate Dean/Graduate Council Chair/Faculty Senate Secretary

Comments from Graduate Dean:

- New Apartments for Graduate Students Located on Mass Avenue Opening in Fall 2024
  - If anyone wants a tour of the new apartments, send Dean Urla an email.
- Statute of Limitations
  - SOL issue came up in the HFA & SBS graduate program external review by the Council of Graduate Schools. The Provost has also raised the issue that SOL is excessively long. The

current SOL policy allows a maximum of 6 years to pass qualifying exams. Five years are allowed after qualifying exams to complete the degree. Any extension beyond those maximums needs to be requested by the Graduate Program Director describing what work remains to be completed and providing a schedule of mentoring and specific goals.

- Dean Urla has been looking to find previous policies (John Mullin was likely Dean at the time that the SOL policy was revised) and comparisons with other universities (ex: UConn's is longer than ours).
  - Tony Paik noted that there is a searchable archive on the bottom of Faculty Senate's home page. Any terms or phrases can be searched to pull documents.
- Dean Urla notes that the SOL limits are the "outer limits" which, if not met by a student, requires the GPD to request special permission from the Graduate Dean in order for the student to continue. Degree programs can and should set their own normative times when they expect milestones to be completed and provide this in their handbooks. The expectation is that normative time is shorter than the SOL maximums. Guidance on this is provided in the Template for Best Practices in Graduate Handbooks created by the Graduate School. Each department should convey to students the normative time expectations.
  - The Dean reminds everyone that departments are the judge of whether a student is making progress. Graduate School policy is that departments may request to have a student dismissed if they show no academic progress for two consecutive semesters.
- Kate Woodmansee is heading a task force.
  - Pulling data on how many SOL extension requests there are currently and what kind.
    - Requests are often found to be related to medical issues.
  - Is there a level of granularity in data (ex: able to see likelihood of completing degree)?

Comments from Faculty Senate Secretary:

- Certificate policy passed last meeting. There is now a form for quinquennial reviews in CCMS and they can route through CCMS. There is a record of those submitted quinquennial reviews for tracking. Two things relevant for graduate council members at the Faculty Senate meeting tomorrow:
  - Procedures for academic admin: Chairs, GPS, Deans, Associate Deans- part of the conversation to clarify role of graduate students in processes.
  - Proposal to create ad-hoc committee comprised by faculty to look at departmental statements, primarily political statements causing debate or controversy in department, and the role of administrative faculty. If interested, let Tony know.
- Starting to look at creating a co-listing policy and want to engage this council and AMC. (Some departments do 500/600, 500/800, 400/600, etc.)

Comments from Graduate Council Chair:

- Ad-hoc Committee to look at the Graduate Certificate process and review met yesterday. Chair Sarah Poissant thanked Dean Jackie Urla for organizing. The Committee reviewed questions on the form and suggested edits.
  - Need the most up-to-date list of graduate certificates.
    - Tony suggested asking Barbara Chalfonte in Flagship Analytics.

        - Dean Urla also stated we'd need to know the dates of creation (when all the graduate certificates were last reviewed, and which have been in existence for more than 5 years). Could likely find in Faculty Senate archives if needed.
    - Chair Sarah Poissant reported that once the Committee completes this initial work and has a wider range of recommendations, they'll bring them to the Graduate Council.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

- Endorsement of Culturally Aware Mentor Training.
    - Sarah was contacted by the Status of Diversity Council Co-Chairs who are getting ready to officially endorse Culturally Aware Mentor Training as best practice for faculty who mentor graduate students. It is a racially conscious training, 8 hours long, and co-facilitated by a team that is of mixed race/ethnicity. Dean Urla noted that we were the first campus to roll this training out and it is still in early phases with faculty signing up on a small scale. The goal is to first have 40% of faculty through Research Mentor Training. Would like to offer CMT to graduate students/TAs in the future when we have capacity. Sarah will reach out to Beth to plan for Beth to speak to the Council about this training in more depth. The Council can then discuss possible endorsement.
- Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Certificates: Graduate Certificate Review.
    - Update given above in "Comments from Graduate Council Chair".
- Full Council Discussion on Current Challenges Faced in Departments and/or Ideas for Future Areas of Graduate Council Work
    - Enrollment
        - Concerns exist that enrollments in next couple years will decline with the economy. Grappling with being competitive.
    - UWW - Marketing / Lack of Representation & Resources
        - One of the issues that came up when faculty met with HFA review team was UWW and how there may not be sufficient marketing for all programs.
        - In some Colleges/Schools (ex: SPHHS & ISOM), a marketing firm is contracted.
        - UR and MarCom have resources to promote courses to offer.
        - GSS recently sent proposal to Chancellor re: UWW/U+ students.
            - GSS feels non-traditional student representation/resources are lacking. They currently have 5 grad students and don't have any from UWW to understand processes.
            - Jackie asked Fareed to circulate the request to the Chancellor to the Graduate Council.
            - Tony noted that the Council could consider recommending a bylaw change to include a grad student that isn't represented through GSS on this Council.
        - Fareed requested to keep the conversation going and will present GSS's findings in the next Graduate Council meeting.
        - UWW courses are not waived under tuition fee waiver benefits of GEO Contract.
- Concerns about grad student funding
        - Inequities across GEO members vs. non-members when accessing on-campus resources such as the recreation center.
        - Not many funding opportunities for master's students. Many have residential life jobs.

        - How many grad students are getting tuition waivers through residential life?
        - Deb Gould has data.
        - The Faculty Senate is also looking into the issue of graduate assistantship waivers, especially those offered outside of the student's home department.
- Graduate Program Market Analysis – Hanover Research
    - Consider requesting a visit from someone who can talk to us about marketing grad programs and maybe some analytics around grad programs.
    - Flex Education Division has a contract with Hanover. Hanover contracts annually so each program would need to get in queue. Each study takes about 6-8 weeks.

VI. ASCC Committee Report

All the following proposals were approved by the full graduate council.

Convert an Experimental Course to a Permanent Course

- PSYCH 615 Cognitive Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience 08/17/2023 (ref #10601)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10601

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposals.

- POLYMER 791DH Polymer Solutions 06/29/2023 (ref #10510)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10510

- EDUC 689E Confronting Oppression in Education 09/28/2023 (ref #10807)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10807

- EDUC 682B Small Group Leadership: Dialogue Facilitation Across Differences 09/28/2023 (ref #10808)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10808

- LABOR 618 Labor and Public Policy 07/11/2023 (ref #10522)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10522

- LABOR 619 Labor Education 07/11/2023 (ref #10523)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10523

Create a New Course

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposals.

- KIN 635 Introduction to Musculoskeletal Modeling & Simulation 08/29/2023 (ref #10635)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10635

- CE-ENGIN 606 Sustainable Pavement Design and Analysis 10/18/2023 (ref #10941)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10941

- NURSING 726 Sexual and Reproductive Health in Primary Care 10/11/2023 (ref #10893)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10893

- NURSING 798SR Clinical Practicum Sexual and Reproductive Health in Primary Care 10/11/2023 (ref #10894)

https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10894

ASCC approves the following three course proposals subject to approval from Curriculum Committee, Dean, and Faculty Senate.

- UMASS 875 Decolonial Reconstellations - DGS Core 10/26/2023 (ref #10990)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10990

- UMASS 795D Critical Decolonial Gender and Sexuality Studies 11/06/2023 (ref #11063)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11063

- UMASS 890 DGS Core: Social and Political Theories of Decolonization 11/03/2023 (ref #11056)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11056

Create a New Concentration

- Electrical and Computer Engineering 07/08/2023 (ref #10515) - *M.S. Concentration in Semiconductor, Photonic, and Quantum Engineering*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10515

- Electrical and Computer Engineering 07/08/2023 (ref #10516) -- *M.S. Concentration in Data and Information Processing Systems*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10516

- Electrical and Computer Engineering 07/08/2023 (ref #10516) -- *M.S. Concentration in Microwave Engineering*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10514

Revise a Concentration

- Nursing Practice (DNP) 11/06/2023 (ref #11065) -- *Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) & Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) Tracks*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11065

- Nursing Practice (DNP) 10/30/2023 (ref #11010) -- *Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Track*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11010

- Communication (PhD) 11/15/2023 (ref #11122) -- *Curriculum Requirements for Communication PhD*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11122

Create Certificate Program

ASCC approves this certificate proposal subject to approval of the above three course proposals (UMASS 795D, UMASS 875, UMASS 890) from Curriculum Committee, Dean, and Faculty Senate.

- Create Certificate Program DGS 12/29/2022 (ref #9589) – *Decolonial Global Studies*
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/9589

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others, as appropriate

1. Graduate School Administrators – None.
2. GSS/Student Members – None.

VIII. Announcements

- Dean Urla announced OPD has a lot of winter programming to keep students on track (dissertation writing retreats & other workshops), as well as wellbeing support, CoJourn, etc.
- Chair Sarah Poissant thanked everyone on the Graduate Council for a productive Fall semester.

IX. Adjournment by 1:30pm or sooner

Chair Sarah Poissant adjourned the meeting at 1:29pm.